

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 EB-11 SCEM-02 SCI-06 COME-00

INT-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01 EURE-00 DRC-01 /175 W

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P R 261035Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4976

INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USNATO 1338

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VALLETTA 2292

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MT, LY

SUBJ: QADHAFI VISITS MALTA

1. COL. QADHAFI ARRIVED MALTA EVENING NOV 25 AMIDST UNUSUALLY HEAVY SECURITY REINFORCED BY HIS OWN SECURITY FORCES, SOME OF WHOM ARRIVED NOV 24. GOVGEN MAMO LED RECEPTION PARTY, BUT AFTER ARRIVAL CEREMONIES, P.M. MINTOFF ARRIVED AND QADHAFI JOINED HIM FOR BRIEF MEETING IN AIRPORT VIP LOUNGE. SUBSTANTIAL CROWDS, MANY OF WHOM HAD TO WAIT FOUR HOURS AS PLANE WAS LATE, GREETED QADHAFI WITH LOUD VIVAS.

2. LATER IN EVENING, IN OBVIOUS EFFORT TO SHOW QADHAFI IS A MAN OF THE PEOPLE, MINTOFF TOOK HIM TO THE MSIDA LABOR PARTY CLUB (CELEBRATING ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY), AND TO THE ST. GEORGES BAND CLUB IN COSPICUA (MINTOFF IS ITS PRESIDENT).

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3. TODAY, NOV 26, QADHAFI IS SCHEDULED VISIT DRY-DOCKS, QADHAFI GARDENS IN PAOLA, A METAL-FABRICATING PLANT (PARTLY LIBYAN-OWNED) AND GOZO. WE HAVE AS YET NO DEPARTURE TIME, BUT WE EXPECT HE WILL DEPART THIS EVENING.

4. COMMENT: MINTOFF, WHO NEVER MEETS VISITORS AT AIRPORT, OBVIOUSLY GOING OUT OF HIS WAY TO MAKE VISIT AS WARM AS POSSIBLE. UNUSUALLY BROAD PUBLIC EXPOSURE, PROBABLY DESIGNED TO SHOW ARAB-LEERY MALTESE THAT QADHAFI NOT ALL THAT BAD. IN ADDITION TO GENERAL DISCUSSIONS ON MIDDLE EAST, OIL MAY BE A PRINCIPAL TOPIC.

5. PRESENCE IN MALTA OF UMBERTO CECONI AND AMADEO FOGLIANO OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS DIVISION OF ENI MAY HAVE SOME CONNECTION WITH QADHAFI VISIT. THERE HAS BEEN SPECULATION HERE THAT LIBYA WILL SUPPLY MALTA WITH CRUDE AND ENI WILL REFINE IT ON BEHALF GOM. IN THIS REGARD ITALIAN AMB TOLD AMBASSADOR RECENTLY THAT GOI IS CONSIDERING GOM REQUEST FOR ASSURANCES ON MAINTAINING PETROLEUM SUPPLIES TO MALTA. (BOTH ESSO AND SHELL GET THEIR POL FROM REFINERIES IN ITALY). IN ADDITION TO REVIEWING ITS RESPONSIBILITIES TOWARD EC COUNTRIES, MASSA BERNUCCI SAID GOI WOULD NEED GUARANTEE OF CRUDE FOR MALTA ADDITIONAL TO THAT REQUIRED BY ITALY.

6. LIMITEL CONSIDERED.
GETZ

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